

MISCELLANEOUS.

Correction to p. 521 ('Annals,' June 1895).

SINCE I drew up (on the 19th of April) the description of the new Batrachian discovered by Mr. Quelch, I have seen the number of the 'Zoologischer Anzeiger' for April 8, in which Prof. O. Boettger describes a new Engystomatoid genus from Halmaheira under the name of *Oreophryne*. I therefore propose to change the name suggested by me to *Oreophrynella Quelchii*.—G. A. BOULENGER.

On the Production of Males and Females in Melipona and Trigona.

By J. PEREZ.

The few observations that we possess on the subject of the inner life of colonies of *Melipona* and *Trigona* were such as to lead us to suppose that, in the case of these exotic bees, the production of sexual individuals, males and females or queens, does not present any essential difference from what we know to take place in that of the hive-bee. As a matter of fact, among the large number of species of *Melipona* and *Trigona* there are some in which the phenomena take place in a precisely similar manner, and the young queens are found existing in the nest at the same time as the males. This is the case, for instance, in *Melipona scutellaris*, of which I have observed simultaneously a number of individuals of both sexes at the close of autumn, a few days before the whole colony was destroyed by the cold.

On the other hand, a nest of *Trigona clavipes*, Fabr. (*quadrangula*, Lep.), throughout the many weeks during which I was enabled to observe it, contained a fairly large number of males and not a single young female.

From the observation of a little *Trigona* from Uruguay, which I succeeded in keeping from the commencement of November 1891 until the middle of October 1894, and which consequently passed through three summers under my eyes, I have learnt some facts that were entirely unexpected.

During the first year the colony produced nothing but workers. Though I was every day on the watch, so to speak, for the slightest differences that might appear in the shape and dimensions of the freshly constructed cells, and lead one to suppose that a queen- or male-cell was being produced, I never noticed anything peculiar in the building operations, and never witnessed the emergence of any but workers.

The following year (1893), about August 10, I noticed in the centre of a comb in course of construction a cell wider and taller than the ordinary ones, above the level of which it projected by about a millimetre and a half. On August 28 the cell was open, and I soon discovered the young queen which had emerged from it, and which, owing to her light colour still more than to her size, was conspicuous against the black background formed by the population of the colony. She lived in the nest until the end of September, when she disappeared, having gone out during bright sunshine to take,